

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A load control device for an engine of a work vehicle, comprising:

an ~~engine (1)~~engine in which a target speed is set to a value in a range from a low idling speed to a high idling speed, wherein the engine drives a driving wheel via a torque converter;

a plurality of variable displacement hydraulic ~~pumps (7, 8, 9)~~pumps driven by the ~~engine (1)~~engine;

a plurality of hydraulic ~~actuators (13, 14, 15)~~actuators to which pressure oil discharged from the plurality of variable displacement hydraulic ~~pumps (7, 8, 9)~~pumps is supplied, wherein the plurality of hydraulic actuators at least activate a work machine;

absorption torque changing ~~means (19, 22, 23)~~means for changing absorption torque for one or more of the variable displacement hydraulic ~~pumps (7, 8, 9)~~pumps;

engine speed detection ~~means (1a)~~means for detecting an engine speed; and

control ~~means (18)~~means for reducing the absorption torque of the variable displacement hydraulic ~~pump (7, 8, 9)~~pump when the detected engine speed is decreased to a predetermined threshold value or lower.

2. (Original) The load control device according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined threshold value is an engine speed equal to or lower than the low idling speed.

3. (Currently amended) The load control device according to Claim 1, comprising:

a hydraulic actuator for activating a steering ~~mechanism (13)~~mechanism; and

a hydraulic actuator for activating a work ~~machine (14)~~machine.

4. (Currently amended) The load control device according to Claim 1, wherein the absorption torque changing means is ~~means (19)~~means for changing maximum absorption torque of the hydraulic pump.

5. (Currently amended) The load control device according to Claim 1, wherein the absorption torque changing means comprises:

displacement control ~~means (22)~~means for controlling a displacement of the variable displacement hydraulic ~~pump (8)~~pump such that a differential pressure between a discharge pressure of the variable displacement hydraulic ~~pump (8)~~pump and a load pressure of the hydraulic ~~actuator (14)~~actuator becomes a set differential pressure; and

~~means (23)~~means for changing the set differential pressure.

6. (Currently amended) The load control device according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure oil is supplied from each of the plurality of variable displacement hydraulic ~~pumps (7, 8, 9)~~pumps to each of the plurality of hydraulic ~~actuators (13, 14, 15)~~actuators via each independent oil passage.

7. (Currently amended) The load control device according to Claim 1, wherein an operating ~~element (17)~~element is provided for setting a target engine speed according to an operating amount thereof;

the predetermined threshold value is set according to the operating amount of the operating ~~element (17)~~element; and

the control ~~means (18)~~means reduces the absorption torque of the variable displacement hydraulic ~~pump (7, 8, 9)~~pump when the detected engine speed decreases to the threshold value or lower.

8. (New) A load control device for an engine of a work vehicle, comprising:

an engine in which a target speed is set to a value in a range from a low idling speed to a high idling speed, wherein the engine drives a driving wheel via a torque converter;

a variable displacement hydraulic pump driven by the engine;

a hydraulic actuator to which pressurized oil discharged from the variable displacement hydraulic pump is supplied, wherein the hydraulic actuator activates a work machine;

a valve apparatus for changing an absorption torque for the variable displacement hydraulic pump;

an engine speed sensor for detecting a speed of the engine; and

a controller for reducing the absorption torque of the variable displacement hydraulic pump by controlling the valve when the detected engine speed is decreased to a predetermined threshold value or lower.

9. (New) The load control device according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined threshold value is an engine speed equal to or lower than the low idling speed.

10. (New) The load control device according to claim 8, comprising:

a hydraulic actuator for activating a steering mechanism; and

a hydraulic actuator for activating a work machine.

11. (New) The load control device according to Claim 8, wherein the valve apparatus changes a maximum absorption torque of the hydraulic pump.

12. (New) The load control device according to claim 8, wherein the valve apparatus comprises:

a valve for controlling a displacement of the variable displacement hydraulic pump such that a differential pressure between a discharge pressure of the variable displacement hydraulic pump and a load pressure of the hydraulic actuator becomes a set differential pressure; and

a device for changing the set differential pressure.

13. (New) The load control device according to claim 8, wherein the pressurized oil is supplied from the variable displacement hydraulic pump to the hydraulic actuator via an independent oil passage.

14. (New) The load control device according to claim 8, wherein an operating element is provided for setting a target engine speed according to an operating amount thereof;

the predetermined threshold value is set according to the operating amount of the operating element; and

the controller reduces the absorption torque of the variable displacement hydraulic pump when the detected engine speed decreases to the threshold value or lower.